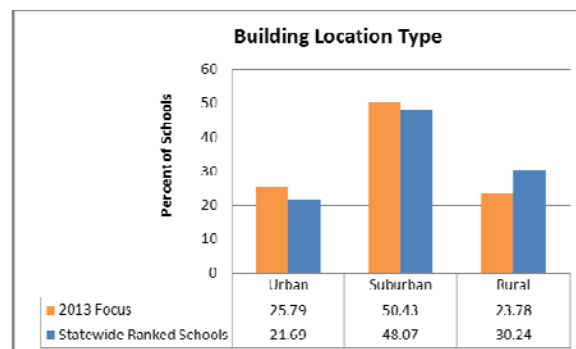
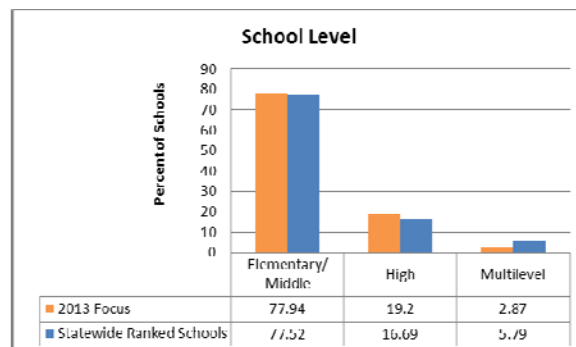


2013 Focus Schools in Brief

Of the schools ranked on the Top-to-Bottom List (TTB),¹ **Focus Schools** are schools with the largest within-school gap in achievement between the top 30% and bottom 30% performing students in the school. The Focus School List must include 10% of all Title I Schools and as such the Focus School List includes approximately 13% of all TTB ranked schools.² This brief discusses characteristics of the 2013 Focus School List and also compares this year's Focus School List to the 2012 Focus School List.

Characteristics of the 2013 Focus School List

- 349 schools received the Focus designation in 2013. 164 of these schools are on the Focus List for the first time, while 185 of these schools were also designated Focus in 2012.
- The majority of Focus schools are elementary or middle schools. Seventy eight percent of Focus schools are elementary or middle schools, 19% are high schools and 3% are multilevel schools. This composition is very similar to the distribution of all ranked schools statewide: 77% of all schools are elementary or middle schools, 17% are high schools and 6% are multilevel schools.
- Public School Academies (PSAs) are proportionately represented on the Focus School List. Six percent of Focus schools are PSAs, compared to 8% of schools statewide. Ninety four percent of Focus schools are LEA schools, as are 92% of schools statewide.
- Half of all Focus schools are located in suburban areas; this is similar to the proportion of suburban schools statewide. Rural schools are underrepresented on the Focus School List (24% compared to 30% statewide), while urban schools are slightly overrepresented (26% compared to 22% statewide).
- The mean student enrollment in Focus schools is 596 students, which is over 80 students greater than the mean enrollment of 510 students in schools statewide.
- Focus schools have lower proportions of economically disadvantaged (ED) students than non-Focus schools. On average, 45% of students in Focus schools are categorized as economically disadvantaged, compared to an average of 50% ED students in non-Focus schools.



¹ The Top-to-Bottom List is a performance ranking of schools based on achievement, improvement and within-school achievement gaps. For more information please see TTB documentation on the accountability section of www.michigan.gov/ttb.

² Schools that are designated as Priority Schools may not be named to the Focus School List.

- There tend to be lower percentages of minority students³ in Focus schools than in schools statewide. Focus schools average 21% minority students, whereas the statewide average is 27% minority students.
- On average, Focus schools show above average improvement in student performance compared to other schools statewide.⁴

How the 2013 Focus School List Compares to the 2012 Focus School List

The Focus metric changed slightly from 2012 to 2013:

- In 2013, a school whose wider-than-average achievement gap would qualify it for Focus school status. Schools are exempted from the Focus School List if the bottom 30% of its students has proficiency rates higher than the state average in at least two subjects and the school's overall percentile ranking is over 75%. 21 schools met these criteria and were exempted from the 2013 Focus School List.

Many 2012 Focus schools are closing their achievement gaps:

- In 2012, 358 schools were named to the Focus School List. 173 of these schools were not designated Focus in 2013. Of these 173 schools, 153 narrowed their within-school achievement gaps in 2013.⁵
- The 2012 Focus schools that moved off the 2013 Focus School List by narrowing their achievement gaps closed their relative achievement gaps by a mean of 0.7 standard deviations. However, these schools still had wider achievement gaps than the average school in 2013 (0.34 standard deviations below average).⁶
- The 2012 Focus schools that moved off of the 2013 Focus School List had higher 2013 TTB rankings, on average, than the 2012 Focus schools that retained the Focus designation for 2013. In addition to a school's achievement gap, student performance and improvement are taken into account in the TTB ranking. The higher average 2013 rankings of former Focus schools suggests that schools with higher relative achievement and improvement values were better able to narrow their achievement gaps from 2012 to 2013 than schools with lower relative achievement.

	2012 Average TTB Rank	2013 Average TTB Rank
Focus 2012 and 2013	45	46
Focus 2012 ONLY	62	67
Focus 2013 ONLY	43	37

³ Minority includes all ESEA-designated racial/ethnic subgroups: black, Asian, Hispanic, Native American, and multiracial.

⁴ Average improvement composite for Focus schools is a z-score of 1, which is higher relative to the statewide improvement z-score of 0.

⁵ 8 of the 173 schools on the 2013 Focus List were named Priority schools in 2013, 9 schools closed or were not ranked in 2013 due to low Full Academic Year (FAY) student enrollment and 3 schools had slightly wider gaps in 2013, but these gaps were above the Focus School threshold.

⁶ This calculation excludes 2012 Focus schools that were designated as Priority in 2013.